



United States
House of Representatives

March 30, 2020

Dorrie Paar
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100, Mail code: OSRR7-2
Boston, MA 02109-3912

RE: City of Fitchburg, Massachusetts EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Application

Dear Ms. Paar,

I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration when reviewing the City of Fitchburg's application for the EPA Assessment Grant, submitted in December 2019. This city is steeped in history, but the industrial nature of that history has contaminated many former commercial and industrial sites, making them costly to assess, remediate, and redevelop.

The City of Fitchburg is home to a truly diverse population where the average resident and/or business owner is of low to moderate-income. The community is hopeful and supportive of the many development projects taking place which is why the Brownfields Assessment Grant Application is vital to the city's success. The grant would be utilized in Opportunity Zones that have been designated to help solve several city issues spanning from environmental justice, economic development, and affordable housing for city residents.

Brownfields Assessment is one of the key pieces of revitalization highlighted in the city's Master Plan, Urban Renewal Plan, and Economic Development Strategic Plan. Fitchburg looks to build upon its strong industrial and commercial history which often means first assessing and remediating brownfield sites. Additional funding from this grant will help remove key barriers in the development process. It will allow Fitchburg to address and mitigate environmental concerns, adaptively reuse historic sites, and serve as a catalyst for Fitchburg's economic rebirth.

The City of Fitchburg is making tremendous steps in revitalizing their community for the betterment of their residents. Therefore, I ask for your utmost consideration when reviewing this application. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Senior Advisor, Ben Martello at (978) 459-0101 or Ben.Martello@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Trahan".

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress